

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on December 31, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-2, 4, 6 and 9-11 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better clarity. Claims 1-2, 4, 6 and 9-11 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for not showing "a varying component" as recited in the claims, such as claim 1. It appears that the varying component is equated with "a physical element" of a circuit. (Office Action, page 7, first bullet point) For better clarity, the claims have been amended to clarify that the varying component is related to a varying component of a signal, namely, the varied mains voltage rectified by the first sub-circuit, as shown in FIG 5, which may

have "a fundamental frequency of 100 Hz - 120 Hz with a peak-to-peak value which depends on the capacitance of the buffer capacitor 20 + 21 (Fig. 2) or 5 (Fig. 3 or 4). This varying component has a peak-to-peak value of for instance 10 V at a buffer capacitance of 68 F and of for instance 100 V at a buffer capacitance of 6.8 F if the load is a 70 W lamp." (Page 4, lines 15-19 of the present specification) It is respectfully submitted that FIG 5B shows the varying component, as described in the specification, such as on page 4, lines 13-19. Accordingly, withdrawal of the drawings objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-4, 7-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to remove the alleged informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 7-10 and 12 has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 6 and 11 are allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that 2, 6 and 11 are allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-4, 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,437,515 (Kamoi). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-4, 7 and 10 are patentable over Kamoi for at least the following reasons.

Kamoi is directed to a discharge lamp lighting device that includes a control circuit for turning ON/OFF switching elements alternately at a high frequency to alternately generate two periods to thereby apply a rectangular-shaped low frequency voltage to the discharge lamp. In particular, during the first period, the ON duration of the second switching element is longer than that of the first switching element; and during the second period, the ON duration of the second switching element is shorter than that of the first switching element.

It is respectfully submitted that Kamoi does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 10 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

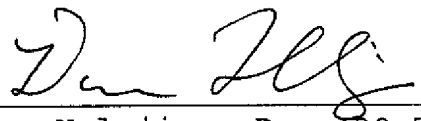
wherein the second frequency of the alternating current provided by the second sub-circuit is synchronized with the first frequency.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 10 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, as claims 3-4, 7-9 and 12 depend from independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 3-4, 7-9 and 12 also be allowed.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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